

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS' GRAND PLAN FOR METRO MANILA

REF: MANILA 1724

BEGIN SUMMARY

METRO MANILA GOVERNOR IMELDA MARCOS HAS ANNOUNCED
GRANDIOSE SCHEME TO TREBLE AREA OF METRO MANILA,
TRANSFER ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO RECLAIMED AREA
SOUTH OF CULTURAL CENTER, EXTEND RECLAMATION AREA
TEN MILE TO SANGLEY POINT, BUILD \$30 MILLION
INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER BY SEPTEMBER, AND RELOCATE
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MIA) TO SANGLEY POINT.
ADB HAS ALREADY GIVEN GOP \$29.6 MILLION LOAN FOR
IMPROVEMENT OF PRESENT MIA SITE. LOAN MUST BE
RECONSIDERED BY ADB IF MRS. MARCOS' SANGLEY SCHEME IMPLE-
MENTED. IF EVEN A FRACTION OF WHAT MRS. MARCOS
PROPOSES REALLY DOES TAKE PLACE, IT WOULD MEAN
ENORMOUS EXPENDITURES OF RESOURCES AND THEIR DIVERSION
FROM RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

END SUMMARY

1. IN MEETING WITH MAYORS AND BARANGAY LEADERS
MARCH 2, METRO MANILA GOVERNOR IMELDA MARCOS
PRESENTED METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROPOSED
BY TECHNOCRATS, SCHOLARS AND SCIENTIESTS FROM UP
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AND DPA. "SOME" OF PLANS ARE BEING COORDINATED

WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS. SHE PROPOSES TO TREBLE AREA OF METRO MANILA BY INCLUDING PORTIONS OF CAVITE AND LAGUNA. REFERENDUM WILL BE HELD TO ALLOW RESIDENTS TO SAY WHETHER THEY WISH TO BE INCLUDED. UNDER NEW SCHEME, TAGATAY WOULD BECOME "SUMMER CAPITAL" WITH ALL LANDS FACING LAKE TAAL EXPROPRIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. OFFICIAL PNA REPORTS MRS. MARCOS FEELS, "NO ONE IS ENTITLED TO OWN THE LANDS WHICH CLAIM A BEAUTIFUL VIEW THAT SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE PEOPLE."

2. MRS. MARCOS ANNOUNCED THAT RECLAMATION AREA SOUTH OF CULTURAL CENTER WOULD BE EXTENDED BY TEN MILES TO INCLUDE SANGLEY POINT WHERE NEW MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MIA) WOULD BE LOCATED. BEGIN FYI - GOP HAS \$29.6 MILLION LOAN FROM ADB FOR IMPROVEMENT OF PRESENT MIA SITE. DESIGN AND ENGINEERING STUDIES ARE NOW 90 PERCENT COMPLETE. SHOULD MRS. MARCOS' PROPOSAL BE IMPLEMENTED, GOP WOULD HAVE TO REIMBURSE ADB FOR COST OF DESIGN STUDY; GOP WOULD HAVE TO ARRANGE LARGE NEW FINANCING FOR PROPOSED SANGLEY MIA. END FYI MRS. MARCOS SAID THAT ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE RECLAIMED AREA. SHE EXPRESSED DISAPPROVAL OF THE MANNER GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN QUEZON CITY. SHE DEPLORED EXECUTIVE SUITES, COMPLETE WITH BEDROOMS, KITCHENS AND OTHER CONVENIENCES, AND SAID THAT THE ENCLOSED ROOMS ARE SUBJECTS FOR MALICIOUS TALK. "WHO KNOWS WHAT IS GOING ON INSIDE THOSE ROOMS," ASKED MRS. MARCOS. UNDER HER SCHEME, NEW OFFICES WILL BE SMALL AND SERVICE-ORIENTED WITH GLASS WALLS SO EXECUTIVES CAN SEE THEIR EMPLOYEES AND VICE VERSA.

3. MRS. MARCOS ANNOUNCED THAT METRO MANILA HAS ACQUIRED 500 BUSES FROM U.S. AND EUROPE. SHE ANNOUNCED SHE HAD SIGNED A CONTRACT A WEEK AGO FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE COMPOSTING PLANTS IN METRO MANILA AT A COST OF \$150 MILLION. COMPOSTING PLANTS ARE DESIGNED TO SOLVE METRO MANILA'S GARBAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEM AND GENERATE INCOME FROM FERTILIZER. ON COMMUNICATIONS FRONT, MRS. MARCOS PLANS TO HAVE A RADIO AND TELEVISION STATION DEVOTED TO METRO MANILA ALONE. ON PERENNIAL SQUATTER PROBLEM, MRS. MARCOS SAID PHILIPPINE ARCHITECTS HAD PROPOSED DESIGNS FOR LOW-COST HOUSING WITH UNITS RANGING FROM 10-15,000 PESOS. SHE SKETCHED OUT PROGRAM WHERE INDIVIDUALS COULD BECOME HOME OWNERS AT

RENTALS OF 60 OR 70 PESOS A MONTH. MRS. MARCOS' TREE PLANTING PROGRAM WILL BEGIN ON JULY 2 WITH SIMULTANEOUS PLANTING OF THOUSANDS OF TREES THROUGHOUT MANILA. THESE WILL HELP SOLVE POLLUTION PROBLEMS BY SERVING AS "SORT OF AIR CONDITIONING."

4. IN AREA OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MRS. MARCOS SAID 180 CITY AND MUNICIPAL HEALTH CENTERS WOULD BE INTEGRATED. NEW CENTERS WOULD PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE MEDIAL PROGRAMS. BARANGAYS WILL ALSO OPERATE HEALTH CENTERS. SHE CLAIMED SHE HAD ARRANGED WITH DRUG MANUFACTURERS FOR METRO MANILA MEDICINE NEEDS TO BE PROVIDED AT COST.

5. COMMENT: MRS. MARCOS HAS BEEN IN OFFICE FOUR MONTHS. HER FOUR FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE METRO MANILA COMMISSION HAVE YET TO BE APPOINTED. SINCE THE ESTERO CLEANING CAMPAIGN AND THE REMOVAL OF SOME SQUATTERS IN EARLY DECEMBER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO URBAN INITIATIVES EXCEPT AN ABORTIVE CAMPAIGN TO UNSNARL MANILA TRAFFIC. IN PRESENTING A VAST GRAB BAG OR URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE AN ARMY OF SPEERS AND MILLIONS TO GET OFF THE DRAWING BOARDS, MRS. MARCOS IS NOT FACING UP TO PRESENT PROBLEMS BUT SEEKING SOLACE IN SOME FUTURE "HEAVENLY CITY." HER MOST CONCRETE PROPOSAL, THE RELOCATION OF MIA, WOULD REQUIRE SECURING VERY LARGE AMOUNTS OF NEW FOREIGN CAPITAL. IF THIS OCCURS, MRS. MARCOS WILL DEFINITELY HAVE DEMONSTRATED HER ABILITY TO SHAPE EVENTS THOUGH PERHAPS NOT FOR THE BEST. SINCE SO MANY OF HER PROJECTS PARTAKE OF THE PIPE DREAM, IT IS HARD TO SAY WHETHER THEY WILL ACTUALLY DEPRIVE RURAL AREAS OF MUCH NEEDED DEVELOP-

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MENT FUNDS. IF ANY EFFORT IS MADE TO IMPLEMENT THEM, HOWEVER, THIS SEEMS UNAVOIDABLE. WHETHER MRS. MARCOS' PRIORITIES COINCIDE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S IS ALSO ANOTHER QUESTION. IN HER MARCH 2 SESSION, THE METRO MANILA GOVERNOR PROMISED THAT SHE WOULD ASK THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL OF THE PLAN SHE HAD PRESENTED WITH MUCH AUTHORITY AND FANFARE. SECTION 4 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 824 WHICH CREATED THE METRO MANILA COMMISSION GIVES THE COMMISSION AND ITS GOVERNOR EXTENSIVE POWERS. WHETHER HER HUSBAND WILL PERMIT HER EXERCISE THESE POWERS AND MAKE AVAILABLE FUNDS HER GRAND DESIGN REQUIRES REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

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